

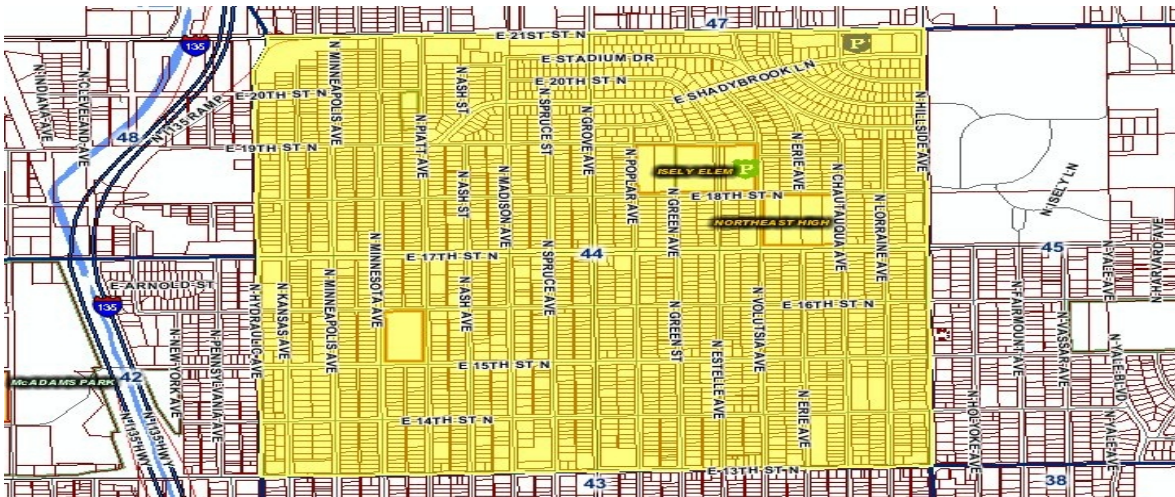


Wichita Police Department

Patrol North Bureau

44 Beat Community Survey Results

“Revitalization of a Neighborhood”



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Abstract

The Wichita Police Department conducted a community survey in the neighborhood encompassing 13th St. North to 21st St. North, Hillside to Hydraulic. This area is located in the Patrol North Bureau and the response zone is designated as 44 beat. The goal of the survey was to give the community an opportunity to address neighborhood concerns and problems.

The survey was conducted by going door-to-door, contacting community members living in the area. While conducting the survey, the citizens shared their concerns regarding issues affecting their neighborhood. There are 4,768 residents that reside in this area. There are approximately 1,963 homes within the survey area, and 439 surveys were successfully completed over a six-month period.

This survey was conducted in partnership with Wichita State University, The Weed and Seed Steering committee, Wichita Independent Neighborhood Association (WIN), Power Community Development Coalition, Power Community Development Corporation, Power Neighborhood Association, the City of Wichita, Family Services Institute, students from USD 259, Northeast Central Neighborhood Association, and Wichita Police Department employees.

The top neighborhood concerns identified through this survey were:

- Drugs
- Abandoned houses and vehicles
- Gangs
- Health/Environmental code violations
- Animal control issues
- Crime
- Traffic violations
- Disorderly conduct
- Foot traffic
- Burglary

The primary community concerns to improve safety in the neighborhood:

- Increased police presence
- Partnerships with the community
- Strict enforcement
- Increase number of officers assigned to the neighborhood
- Other citizens concerns
- Juvenile intervention
- Bike/Foot patrol
- Traffic enforcement
- Drug enforcement
- Decrease response time

The Wichita Police Department and the City of Wichita will continue to respond to the concerns of the community identified in the survey, by working in partnership with citizens to strengthen the collaboration between city agencies and the community to stimulate neighborhood revitalization.

The Wichita Police Department will continue to strive for improved communication with the community and address positive and negative perceptions regarding the police department revealed from this survey.

Introduction

The Wichita Police Department practices the “*Community Policing Philosophy*” and believes in prevention, proaction, forming partnerships and problem solving, to address community concerns. It is because of this belief in citizen empowerment, that the “*44 beat Revitalization of a Neighborhood*” was initiated. The response area designated as “*44 beat*” encompasses 13th St. North to 21st St. North, Hillside to Hydraulic. It is a socially and economically depressed area. This area experiences higher crime rates than other neighborhoods within the City of Wichita, lower median household incomes, more rental properties than private residences, and a high number of abandoned/vacant homes.

Background

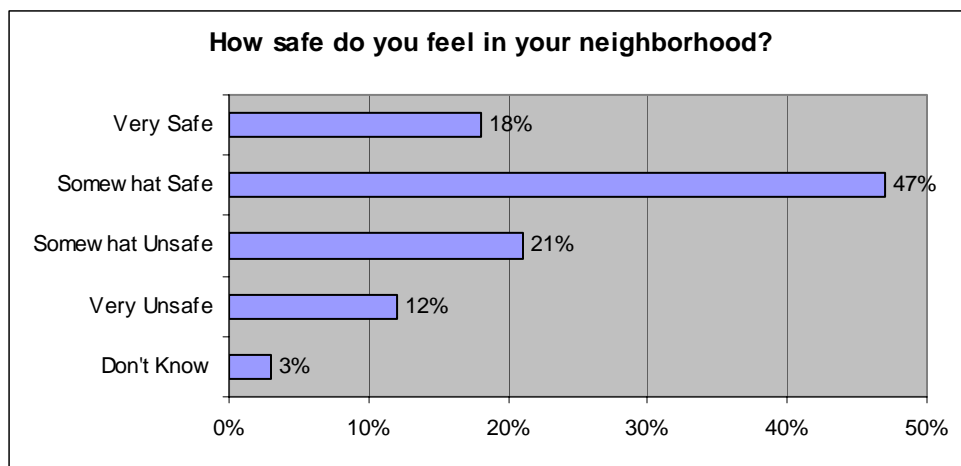
The Wichita Police Department continually analyzes data regarding crime trends in all response areas of the city. In 2004, there was an increase in homicides and overall crime activity in and around this area. Patrol North Bureau personnel researched the crime statistics, along with known neighborhood concerns and developed a comprehensive survey designed to illicit input from the citizens. In January 2006, officers prepared the survey document, and other resource material for distribution to citizens in this area.

Overall Findings

The Wichita Police Department, city employees from various departments, and citizen volunteers, collaborated on obtaining information from the citizens who live in the response zone of *44 beat*. The group began distributing surveys with the intent to learn the community’s perceptions of crime in their neighborhood as well as what the community’s expectations are of the Wichita Police Department and other City

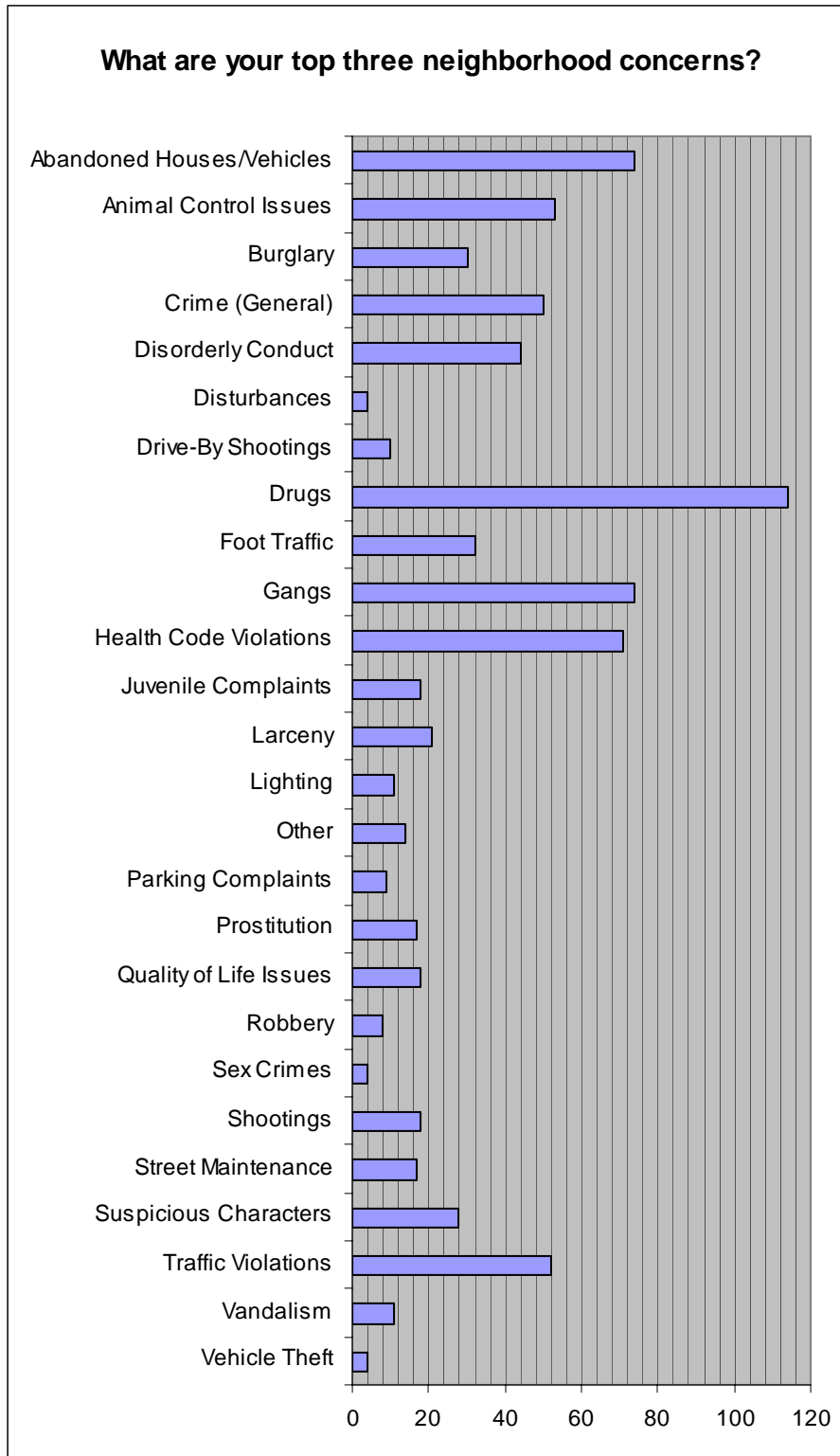
Departments. After the surveys were completed, the information was compiled and detailed in this report.

The first question listed on the survey stated, *“How safe do you feel in your neighborhood?”* Forty-seven percent of the citizens surveyed said that they felt somewhat safe. Twenty-one percent felt somewhat unsafe and twelve percent felt very unsafe. Many of the citizens shared that they did not measure their level of safety as it compared to the city as a whole, but as it affected their specific neighborhood. For example, one respondent indicated that the level of safety in her neighborhood had improved. She was now able to sleep in her bed instead of on the floor due to the drive-by shootings that were common in her area. Her residence still bears the evidence of the past shootings, including five (5) patched bullet holes scattered across the front of the residence.



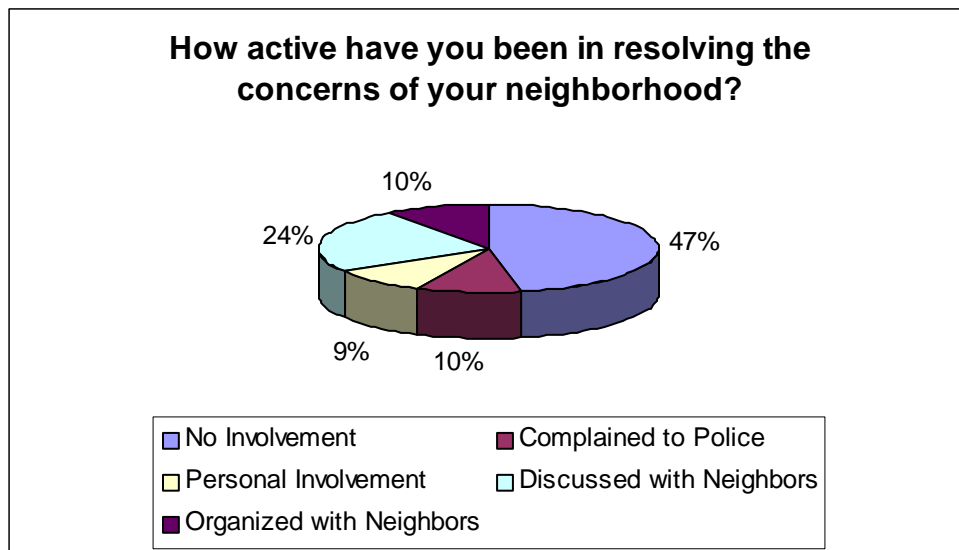
The second question on the survey stated, *“What are your top three neighborhood concerns?”* The top three concerns identified by citizens were drug activity, abandoned houses and gangs. Other major concerns identified included: Environmental/Health code violations, animal control issues and crime in general. One citizen stated that abandoned houses were causing her neighborhood to deteriorate. She pointed out an abandoned

house being used by drug dealers to distribute drugs as well as fight pit bull dogs. For additional comments refer to Appendix I.



The third question on the survey was, “*What three things could the police do to make your neighborhood safer?*” Overwhelmingly, the citizens asked for more patrols and an increase in officer presence. The citizens also expressed a strong desire for strict enforcement of environmental and housing code violations. For additional comments refer to Appendix II.

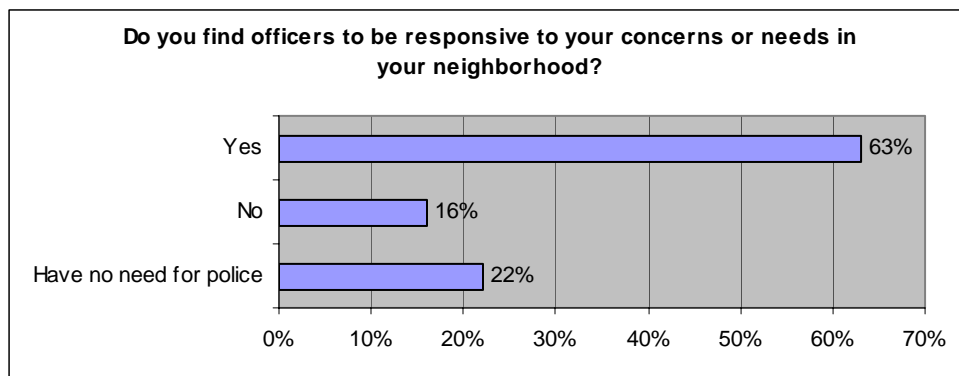
The fourth question asked on the survey stated, “*How active have you been in resolving the concerns of your neighborhood?*” Almost half of the citizens stated that while they do have concerns about issues affecting their neighborhoods, they have not actively participated in, or taken any steps to correct the issues. Many of those surveyed stated that they did not feel they could help or participate due to their age, or in some cases, fear of retribution against them if they took action or spoke out on issues.



The fifth question asked on the survey stated, “*Do you know if the Wichita Police Department has a Community Policing Officer in your area?*” Sixty-six percent of the citizens responded that they were not aware that there was a Community Police Officer assigned to their area.

The sixth question asked on the survey stated, *“If yes, have you ever met, talked with, or interacted with your Community Policing Officer or Beat Team Officer?”* Eighty percent stated that they have never talked to, or interacted with their Community Police Officer, or Beat Team Officer.

The seventh question asked on the survey stated, *“Do you find officers to be responsive to your concerns or needs in your neighborhood?”* Sixty-three percent of the citizens felt that officers were responsive to the needs and concerns of the neighborhood. Twenty-two percent of the respondents indicated that they have not had a concern where police services were needed. Sixteen percent of the citizens surveyed stated that they did not feel that the officers were responsive to their needs and concerns. Citizens felt that call response times were too long, and that some officers had non-caring attitudes. Citizens also stated that they wanted the officers to interact with them more, indicating that they would even like officers to get out of their cars and talk with them when it is not a dispatched call for service.

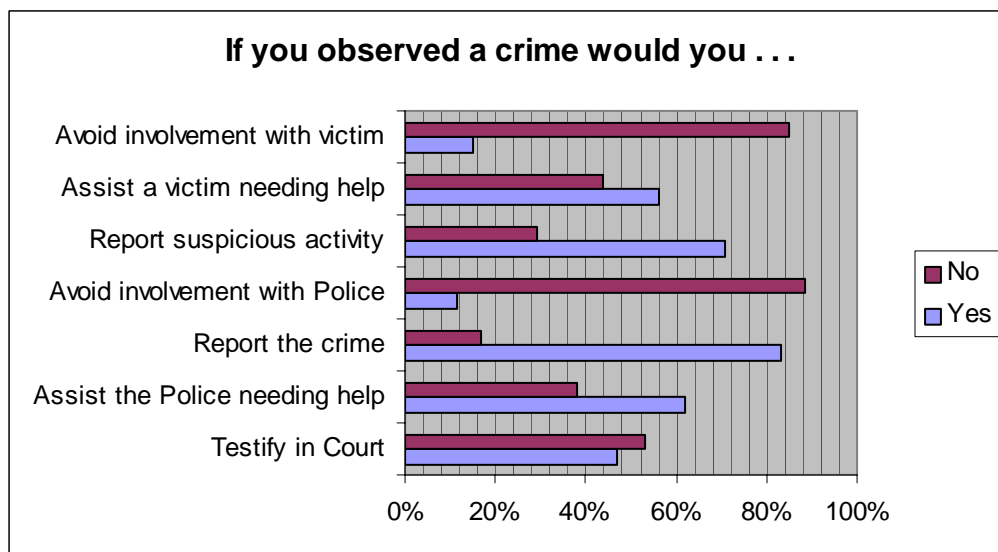


The eighth question asked on the survey stated, *“If you observed a crime would you...?”* The possible responses were:

- Avoid involvement with the victim
- Assist a victim needing help

- Report suspicious activity
- Avoid involvement with the police
- Report the crime
- Assist the Police Officers needing help
- Testify in court
- Explain_____

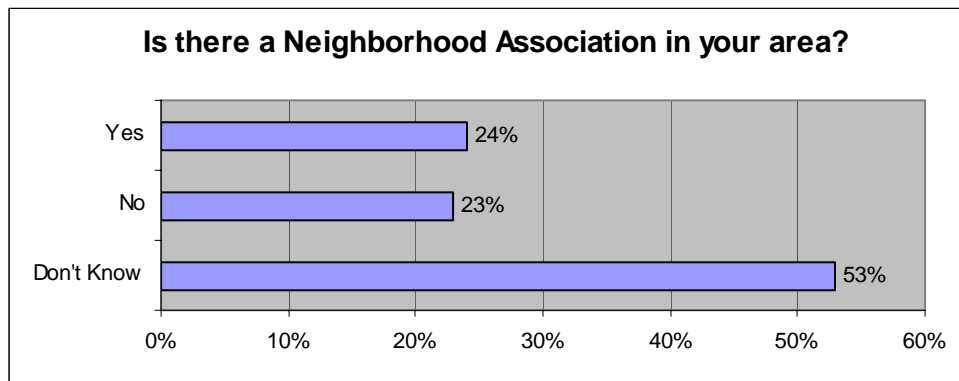
Slightly more than eighty percent of the citizens stated that they would not avoid involvement with a victim of a crime. Sixty percent indicated that they would assist a victim who needed help. Approximately seventy-five percent indicated that they would report suspicious activity to police. Ninety percent stated that they would not avoid involvement with the police department. Eighty-five percent stated that they would report a crime to the police. Approximately sixty percent indicated that they would assist police officers that needed assistance. Only forty-five percent of the respondents stated that they would be willing to testify in court. Fifty-five percent stated that they would not be willing to testify in court, indicating a fear of retaliation as their primary concern for not becoming involved. For additional comments refer to Appendix III.



The ninth question asked on the survey stated, *“Would you be willing to work with your Community Police Officer and Beat Team Members to address crime concerns.”* Sixty-seven percent stated that they would be willing to work with their Community Police Officer and Beat Team Members to tackle or address problems in their neighborhood.

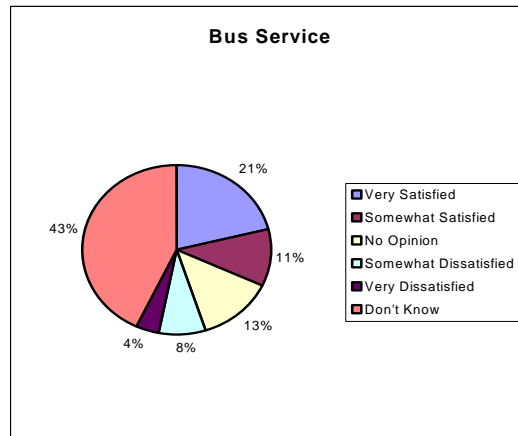
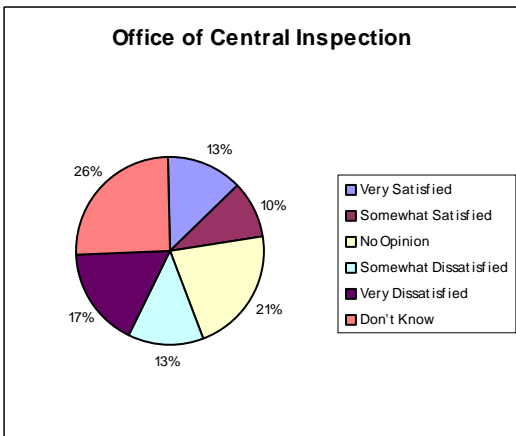
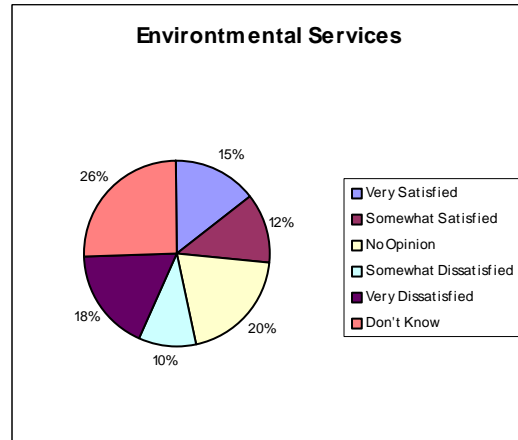
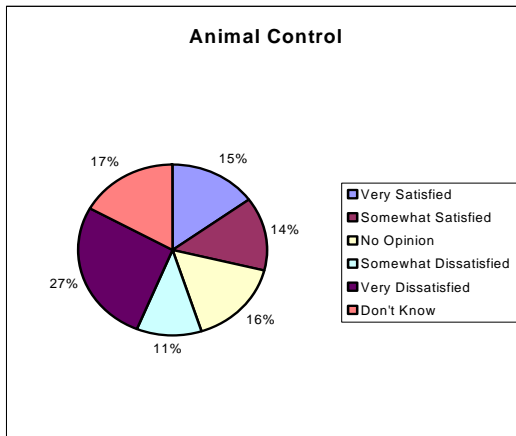
The tenth question asked on the survey was, *“Is there a Neighborhood Association in your area?”* Fifty-three percent of the citizens indicated that they did not know of a Neighborhood Association in their area.

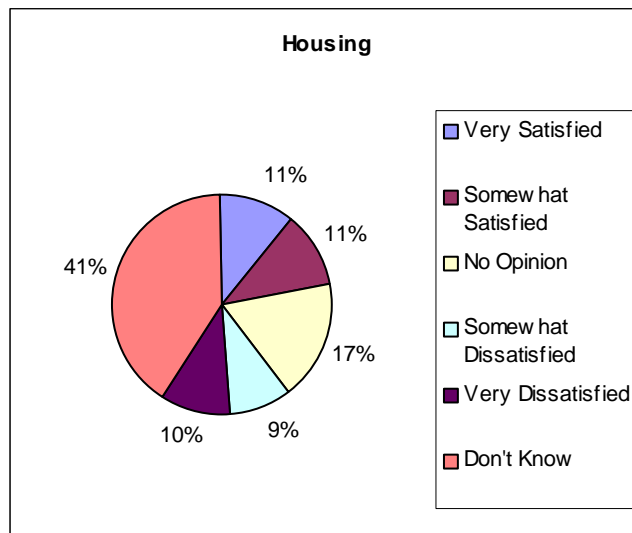
The eleventh question asked on the survey stated, *“If there is a Neighborhood Association, are you actively involved in it?”* Twenty-four percent of the citizens were aware of a Neighborhood Association and of those, approximately eighty percent participated in the association’s activities. Other citizens wanted the department to help in starting a Neighborhood Watch or Neighborhood Association.



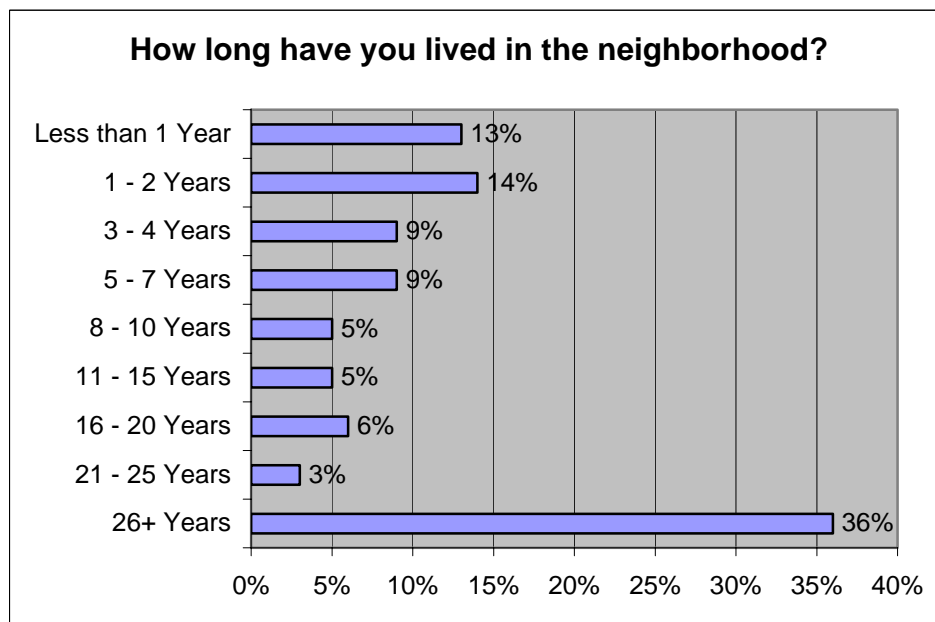
The twelfth question on the survey asked, *“Overall, are you satisfied with the services the city provides to address neighborhood issues? (Rate the following city services on a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being very dissatisfied, 2 being somewhat dissatisfied, 3 being no opinion, 4 being somewhat satisfied and 5 being very satisfied.)”* Citizens expressed concerns regarding Animal Control regarding long response times and animals

running at large. Citizens concerns regarding Environmental Services included abandoned vehicles on private property and illegal trash dumping. Citizens concerns with the Office of Central Inspection included abandoned houses and houses in need of repair, whether owned or rented. Citizens concerns with Wichita Transit/ Bus Service included expanded hours and routes. For additional comments refer to [Appendix IV](#).





The thirteenth question on the survey asked, “*How long have you lived in the neighborhood?*”



The fourteenth question on the survey stated, “*Other questions, concerns or suggestions?*” This question was included to allow the citizens to address other concerns not specifically asked on the survey. For comments refer to Appendix V.

Conclusion

The Wichita Police Department's mission is to provide professional and ethical public safety services in partnership with citizens to identify, prevent and solve the problems of crime, fear of crime, social disorder and neighborhood decay, thereby improving the quality of life in our community. The citizens in this area have expressed concerns regarding the fear of crime, the accessibility of city services, officer apathy and neighborhood blight. The Department is dedicated to working proactively in partnership with our citizens, District Advisory Boards (DABS), Neighborhood Associations and other City Departments.

The Wichita Police Department will share the results of the survey with the community and media. A minimum of (2) two public forums will be held for release of the results and to allow further input from the community to identify avenues to promote community involvement and citizen empowerment. The survey document will be posted on the departmental website for public review.

The Wichita Police Department will continue to work with city agencies on the service delivery to this neighborhood.

A follow-up survey of the neighborhood will be conducted in 2007 to measure citizen's perception, overall improvements and continued sustainability. Local businesses will also be surveyed regarding the services provided to the neighborhood. The Wichita Police Department will continue to explore funding allocations for this area.

Appendix I

“What are your top three neighborhood concerns?”

- Real concern is falling down, abandoned houses. Depreciates from other houses. Get busy with city taking these houses right away!
- People walking and knocking on doors trying to sell stuff. Breaking into cars.
- Lots of cars-possible drug activity.
- 1500 block of North Spruce is a concern.
- Drugs being sold at 1959 N. Chautauqua.
- 2031 & 2031 E. 16th.
- House on corner. 1403 N. Ash.
- Drugs at 16th and Piatt apartments
- Apartments at 15th and Spruce (2 responses)
- There is a guy that is breaking into cars and trucks.
- Foot traffic from apartments at 15th and Spruce.
- 1500 N. Spruce-Prostitution and drug house.
- Business at 17th and Poplar-Bad stuff going in.
- Racial profiling.
- Vagrants
- Speeding on Grove
- Not enough patrol
- Some people throw bottles out of their cars.
- Concerned with the welfare of my neighborhood and the neighborhood response.
- Suspicious people
- Bad sewers and street maintenance.
- No pizza deliveries.
- Shadybrook sign spelled wrong.
- Children being treated like criminals.
- House at 1403 N. Ash
- School buses from Northeast Magnet parking on 18th and blocking visibility on 18th at the intersection.
- Too many temporary people moving in and out.
- People sitting in cars.
- Juveniles at 1630 N. Estelle.
- Trash in alleys from illegal dumping
- Suspicious characters at the church.
- Respect for the people, communication skills and not taking authority out of the officers hands.
- Summertime. Very busy on our streets.
- Renters don't seem to have any interest in taking care of their property.
- Walking surfaces.

Appendix I (cont.)

“What are your top three neighborhood concerns?”

- I am concerned with the church mental facility. I think it is unsafe for young children to be around.
- Police harassment.
- Vacant houses.
- Response time. The only way to get the police out fast is to say that people are shooting.
- Southwest corner of 15th and Minneapolis. They are bootlegging and the police don't do anything.
- The people of our neighborhood don't care because no one cares about them!
- Officers fly by without acknowledging our presence and are unconcerned.
- Neighborhood has gone to hell.
- Sewer service is poor.
- Utilities higher here than in other areas of the city.
- Lights go out too frequently when it storms.
- The police look the other way from our neighborhood problems.
- The police drive through but don't care.
- Police only stop for police calls.

Appendix II

“What three things could the police do to make your neighborhood safer?”

- Restore vacant house in this area. More shopping centers. Rebuild parks. More input and focus on the schools.
- Put up more stop signs.
- Patrol more during late hours.
- Help with traffic enforcement.
- Suggestion: to increase patrol 7 days a week and ticket those vehicles creating loud music.
- Condemn apartments across the street and replace with new ones. Constant patrol from 5:30pm to 3:00am.
- Make themselves more visible. More patrol. Somewhat concerned in the time it takes to come out.
- Patrol crowd outside mini-mart at 13th and Minnesota.
- Bring out more K9 units and work them.
- Need a stop sign on 14th
- Need a stop sign for children at 14th and Poplar.
- Need help around the neighborhood.
- Increase officer presence.
- I think PD is doing a great job.
- Officers need to watch the alleyways more.
- Police need to be more visible.
- Officers need to watch the alleyways more. Juveniles walking around at all hours of the night.
- Background checks when new people move in.
- Tear down boarded-up houses.
- Check on landlord and vacant houses.
- Traffic enforcement and be stricter on code violations.
- Protect needs-regardless of race.
- I think expanding crime prevention programs will help our community.
- Pay attention to small things, not just big.
- Help with resources for people who don't have money to tow cars.
- Just keep doing what you are doing.
- The officers do a pretty good job.
- Keep controlling.
- Continue to work with the Neighborhood Associations.
- Continue to monitor speeding.
- Officers do a good job.
- Just do your best for us. We need to watch out for each other.
- Would like to see more neighborhood watch signs.
- The officers need to get out of their cars and interact more.
- Police officers should be approachable.

Appendix II (cont.)

“What three things could the police do to make your neighborhood safer?”

- Safety programs for kids and adults.
- More education, activities for kids and summer jobs.
- Give out information on the Neighborhood Associations.
- Keep strangers out.
- Follow up on cases and complaints.
- Have mentoring programs.
- Community patrol.
- Educate kids about gangs.
- Be more friendly and understanding.
- You are doing a good job.
- More things for youth/programs for parents.
- You all do good.
- I commend officers for doing the survey. I have lived here 45 years and this is the first time the police have shown concern.
- Neighborhood should be informed of events at WST so they can arranging parking.
- The police department needs to take action.
- Do something about fights and kids in the streets.
- Give more respect to the citizens.

Appendix III

“If you observed a crime would you...?”

- As long as I don't get hurt by the one I'm testifying against. Landlord won't fix things. Tired of people blaming me for neighborhood problems.
- I would call 911 if no one would contact me, but they always contact me. The gangs intimidate the neighbors.
- Scared to report because of retaliation.
- Want to report crime, but how can a person stay anonymous?
- It depends on who they are and what criminal activity (report suspicious activity)
- Want to give information, but not be on TV or put on the spot for retaliation.
- I would help someone. Would report a crime to keep neighborhood safe. Would like help with neighborhood meetings.
- I don't get involved. Police need to handle it. Residents can get killed.
- I fear for my personal safety.
- I fear retaliation.
- Won't testify! Someone might get my ass!
- Won't testify because of safety.
- Will help if I know the officer.
- Scared of gangs and drugs.
- I would help if the safety of my family was not at immediate risk.
- Would help if the police kept mouth shut about who told.
- Would testify unless threatened.
- I don't call the police. I take care of it myself.
- Some of my residents are afraid to report because of retaliation.
- I'm scared. I just stay to myself.
- A lot of seniors are afraid of retaliation.

Appendix IV

“Overall, are you satisfied with the services the city provides to address neighborhood issues?”

- Pit bulls are a problem.
- Need to get stray dogs.
- Loose dogs out of control.
- Need more animal control units.
- Dogs run rampant in northeast Wichita. This would never be allowed in west or east Wichita. I don't call because when I do I am told that I have to wait until the next day to have an animal removed from my own yard. What is the point?
- Loose dogs are a big problem.
- It takes animal control too long to come out.
- Animal control is unresponsive to dog problems.
- Dogs run rampant.
- Animal control is better than in the past, but still not good.
- I can't get animal control out for days-what is the point of calling?
- Wild cats in the neighborhood. I called animal control and was told once I trapped them they would come out and get them.
- Empty lots need to be taken care of-too overgrown.
- Clean the alley behind the house-full of trash!
- Need to take care of tall grass.
- Don't make people cut their yards.
- Please make neighbors use their own trash.
- Grass needs to be cut 1433 N. Madison.
- Cite owners for trash.
- Old cars everywhere.
- Trash in alley behind house.
- Slumlords need to keep up their properties.
- Houses run down.
- Need to take care of vacant houses.
- Very satisfied with the special services bus.
- No bus service late at night.
- Would like to see benches to sit on while waiting on the bus.
- Bus doesn't run long enough.
- Bus should run more.
- Bus needs to run longer hours.
- City bus has a small schedule, could run more.

Appendix V

“Other questions, concerns or suggestions?”

- I am concerned about my neighborhood and the people in it.
- Help this neighborhood! I have a two-year old son. Thank you!
- Concerns with the school bus and about the elderly in the neighborhood.
- Talked with PD at National Night Out.
- White officers roll through here and stop people only because they're black. 15yr old son is always being harassed.
- Would like to see more lighting/street lights in the neighborhood.
- I think that property values are going down because of neighborhood condition.
- Road needs pavement between Piatt and Spruce.
- I think officers do a good job when they are called out, but would like to see officers out more without being called out.
- It ain't the police's problem-it's the people's problem.
- Community Policing officer is hard to contact during an emergency.
- Clean up alleys.
- Fix potholes and sidewalks. City is unresponsive to requests.
- Fix sidewalk!
- Need more streetlights.
- I am 90 yrs old and my help is here on weekends only. I am limited as to going to meetings etc.
- Neighbors need to have more respect as far as showing respect for another mans property is concerned.
- Need access to the survey information
- Officers have a nonchalant attitude. Here to pick up a paycheck.
- I called 911 and was place on hold five times.
- It is going to be summer real soon. What activities does the city have in place for our youth to partake in to help keep them out of trouble or help them be productive?
- I am very dissatisfied with street maintenance.
- Need cleaner yards.
- This is a black ghetto neighborhood-hood in the hood.
- I am involved with the neighborhood association.
- There is a perception that officers are intimidating to younger kids.
- No response from police last night. Had disturbance with over 60 people.
- Officers very disrespectful.
- Would like to see more involvement.
- Have been here several years and sometime we get the help we need. Some times we don't.
- Neighbors are friendly and helpful.
- I think you are dong a great job.

Appendix V (cont.)

“Other questions, concerns or suggestions?”

- Neighbors need to take pride in their property.
- Need a stoplight at Stadium. Hard to get across Hillside because of traffic.
- Landlords need to do better background checks on citizens.
- Side streets need swept. Snow needs to be moved off of the streets.
- I am satisfied with the services that the police offer, but am concerned with the lack of police presence in the neighborhood.
- Need a neighborhood watch and more shopping.
- Need street maintenance.
- Need to get rid of community policing.
- Keep the neighborhood safe.
- Keep praying that God is listening.
- Pot holes in the street.
- This is the last area to be cleaned when it snows.
- We (the neighborhood) need someplace for young people to go to do activities such as physical skills, learning tactics, similar to a gym BESIDES basketball for girls and boys.
- City employees (i.e. Central Inspections) need to be more formal in their approach to citizens.
- Just live a Christian life. Captain of the NA.
- Would go to Neighborhood Association meeting but don't know when they are.
- Police/City do not care about Northeast Wichita. Only use if for publicity.
- I will be involved in Neighborhood Association.
- More improvement with rental houses and lawn care and increase in crime prevention will allow for more businesses and housing developments.
- The police respond when we call sometimes. They are really interested in using their new Tasers.
- Central Inspection and Health officers do a good job but they are overworked.
- I don't call the police because they don't care! Why call for them to come in and treat me like I'm the one who did something wrong. For them to look down on my like I'm nothing. Police patrol our neighborhoods but they wouldn't live here if their lives depended on it.
- The city does not care about central northeast Wichita.
- I am getting involved with the police. I want their help but don't trust them. They will tell where the information came from. They are scared to live in our neighborhood because they know how bad it is.